20

Enclosure to letter dated: July 5, 2001 Application No. PCT/NL00/00294

ART 34 AMDT

06. 07. 2001

## CLAIMS

**(45)** 

- 1. Method for reducing the allergen/activity of rubber latex comprising incorporating an amount of starch in the rubber latex.
- 2. Method according to claim 1, characterized
  5 in that the amount of starch that is incorporated in the
  rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said
  rubber latex is maximally 50%, preferably maximally 40%,
  more preferably maximally 30%, most preferably maximally
  25% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without
  10 starch, as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic
  proteins.
- characterized in that the amount of starch that is incorporated in the rubber latex is such that the allergen activity of said rubber latex is maximally 20%, preferably maximally 15%, more preferably maximally 10%, most preferably maximally 5% of the allergen activity of rubber latex without starch as measured by a latex ELISA for antigenic proteins.
  - 4. Method according to claims 1-3, Characterized in that the starch is a modified starch.
- 5. Method according to claim 4, characterized in that the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking 25 the starch with glyoxal.
  - 6. Method according to any of the claim 1-5, characterized in that the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.
- 7. Rubber latex having a reduced allergen
  30 activity, which latex is obtained by a method as claimed in claims 1-6.
- 8. Rubber latex article comprising rubber latex according to claim 7, wherein at least the surface contacting the skin of the user is fabricated from the 35 said rubber latex.

**AMENDED SHEET** 

5

Enclosure to letter dated: July 5, 2001 Application No. PCT/NL00/00294 2

AND 34 AMOT

- 9. Rubber latex article according to claim 8 characterized in that the article is a surgical glove.
- 10. Rubber latex article according to claim 8 characterized in that the article is a condom.
- 11. Rubber latex article according to claim 8 characterized in that the article is an inflatable balloon.
- 12. Use of starch for reducing the allergen

  activity of rubber latex.
  - 13. Use according to claim 12 characterized in that the starch is a modified starch.
  - 14. Use according to claim 13 characterized in that the modified starch is obtainable by gelatinising the starch in an extruder and subsequently crosslinking 15 the starch with glyoxal.
    - 15. Use according to any of the claims 12-14, characterized in that the starch is potato starch, Tapioca, waxy corn starch or waxy rice starch.
  - 16. Use of rubber latex according to claim 7 20 for the manufacture of rubber latex articles.
    - 17. Use of starch as donning powder for surgical gloves, characterized in that the starch is a granular, low crystalline preferably non-crystalline, starch.
    - 18. Use according to claim 17, characterized in that the low-crystalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.
  - 19. Use according to claim 17 or 18, characterized in that the birefringence of the low30 crystalline starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.
  - 20. Use according to any of the preceding claims 17-19 characterized in that less than 75% of the 35 low-crystalline starch is soluble in cold water.
    - 21. Use according to any of the preceding claims 17-20 characterized in that the starch is selected

Starbary teakwerth

AMENDED SHEET

Enclosure to letter dated: July 5, 2001 Application No. PCT/NL00/00294

3

ART 34 AMDT

NL000029

from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, rice starch, or waxy corn starch.

2 X X 5

- 22. Surgical glove provided with a granular, low crystalline, preferably non-crystalline, starch as a donning powder at least on the surface of the glove to be contacting the skin of the user.
- 23. Surgical glove according to claim 22, characterized in that the low-cristalline starch has a V-type crystal structure.
- 24. Surgical glove according to claim 22 or 23, characterized in that the pirefringence of the low-crystalline starch is less than 30%, preferably less than 20%, more preferably less than 10%, and most preferably less than 5% of native starch.
- 25. Surgical flove according to any of the claims 22-24, characterized in that less than 75% of the low-crystalline starch is soluble in cold water.
- 26. Surgical glove according to any of the preceding claims 22-25, characterized in that the starch 20 is selected from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, rice starch, or waxy corn starch.

Sub x17